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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 974

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Tennessee Regulatory Authority Director Sara Kyle on her election as President of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those exemplary professionals and remarkable public servants who have contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of this state during their meritorious careers in state government; and

WHEREAS, no public servant could be more deserving of this special recognition than Tennessee Regulatory Authority Director Sara Kyle, who on June 27, 2000 was elected President of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC), which is comprised of members from eleven southern states; and

WHEREAS, she served with distinction as SEARUC First Vice President in 1999; and

WHEREAS, during her Presidency, Memphis will proudly host the SEARUC Conference in 2001; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Peery, Sara attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville before graduating from Austin Peay State University; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, Sara Kyle began more than a decade of illustrious service on Capitol Hill; her illustrious career with the legislature included tackling public policy issues during the day and studying law at night at the Nashville School of Law; and

WHEREAS, she began her meritorious service with the General Assembly as a legislative assistant to her aunt, Senator Anna Belle Clement O'Brien and later worked with the General Assembly's Office of Legal Services and the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General as a law clerk; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, she received her law degree and also married our most valuable colleague, Senator Jim Kyle. She subsequently practiced law in the same firm with her husband, and served as an assistant public defender until she was elected to the Memphis City Court bench in 1991, an election in which she received nearly 100,000 votes in a four-candidate race; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Sara Kyle resigned her bench to become a candidate for the Tennessee Public Service Commission; throughout her campaign, she stressed a strong ethics and reform program as a way to restore public confidence in the Commission; in the General Election she won 54 percent of the vote and was the only member of her party to win a statewide election that day; and

WHEREAS, she is only the third woman in Tennessee history to be elected to a statewide office; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 1996, she was nominated by House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh to serve as one of the three members of the new Tennessee Regulatory Authority; and

WHEREAS, in this important office, she has proudly continued her family's tradition of public service in elective office and has worked assiduously to make this state's government more responsive to the needs of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, long active in organizations promoting better government and public awareness, Sara Kyle has contributed significantly to her profession and is widely respected for

her work as a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners; she was one of twenty-five members nationwide to serve on NARUC's telecommunication committee, which advises Congress on telecommunication policy; and

WHEREAS, she has also contributed her numerous time and many talents as a member of the Board of Directors of the Frank G. Clement Foundation, member of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Chapter of the YWCA, and as a member of the Memphis Downtown Kiwanis Club, the Neighborhood Watch Association, the Memphis and Shelby County Immunization Council, the Tennessee, American and Memphis Bar Associations, the Tennessee Lawyers Association for Women, the Association of Women Attorneys, and the Memphis Chapter of the League of Women Voters; and

WHEREAS, the Kyle's are the proud parents of four children and evince their religious faith as members of the Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the members of this legislative body should recognize those distinguished public servants whose sterling achievements are a source of pride for all Tennesseans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Tennessee Regulatory Authority Director Sara Kyle on her election as President of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and extend to her our heartfelt thanks for her outstanding service to the state of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.